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**WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

by

**F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.**

**Medical Officer of Health for the Whiston Rural District**

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**FOR THE YEAR 1959**



**WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**FOR THE YEAR 1959**





## WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*The Chairman and Members of the  
Whiston Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Whiston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

I am happy to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The adjusted death rate was 10.4 per thousand compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

The adjusted birth rate of 19.1 continues to be higher than the rate for England and Wales which was 16.5

The infant mortality rate was 18.8 per thousand live births compared with 29.3 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 22.0.

There were 2 maternal deaths notified during the year.

During the year 626 cases of Infectious Disease were notified and of these 407 were cases of Measles and 27 cases of Whooping Cough.

There were 24 cases notified of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified in the Rural District.

3 cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

The demolition of unfit houses continued, details of which are included in the section of the report concerning Housing.

The appointment of Mr. Harold Corscadden as Chief Public Health Inspector took effect from 1st January and during the first three months three additional Public Health Inspectors were appointed, Mr. J. Tinto, Mr. B. P. Mercer and Mr. P. Saxon. These, together with the appointment of a Pupil Public Health Inspector brought the establishment back to normal strength after the numerous changes during 1958.

The work of the Department has been concerned with issues of a mainly routine nature with the possible exception of the establishment of a new food industry, a broiler packing station, which called for particular attention and which grew rapidly. In addition, the Slaughterhouse attached to Rainhill Hospital was brought into operation by the tenant farmer, alterations were carried out to satisfy the requirements of the new regulations.

Three atmospheric pollution recording stations were established at Schools within the area to be operated by the senior students under the supervision of the teaching staff, the Council providing the necessary equipment.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year and also to the Officials of the Council, in particular to Mr. Corscadden the Chief Public Health Inspector, for their assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. BUNTING.

# WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Public Health Department

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### Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector ... .. H. CORSCADDEN

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

### GENERAL STATISTICS

|   |      |      |      |      |      |          |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Area of the District in acres   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23,750   |
| Population at Census—1951   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 43,053   |
| Registrar General's estimate of home population—Mid 1959                                      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 40,150   |
| Density of Population ( <i>i.e.</i> , number of persons per acre based on mid-year population | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8.1      |
| Number of inhabited houses (1951 Census)  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10,820   |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959 according to rate book                                | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11,584   |
| Rateable Value  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £480,306 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £1,555   |

### EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

|  |               |      |      |      |      |      |
|--|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Live Births—   |               |      |      |      |      |      |
| Male : 375   | Females : 370 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 745  |
| Rate per 1,000 estimated population                                    | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 19.1 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births                 | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2.6  |
| Still-Births—  |               |      |      |      |      |      |
| Male : 12  | Female : 10   | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22   |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births                             | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28.7 |
| Total live and still-births  | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 767  |
| Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) Male : 10                          | Female : 4    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14   |
| Infant mortality rates—  |               |      |      |      |      |      |
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births                        | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18.8 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births              | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 19.3 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births          | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | Nil  |
| Neo-natal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | ....          | .... | .... | .... | .... | 13.4 |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) ....                            | 13.4 |
| Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still-births ....) | 41.7 |
| Maternal mortality (including abortion)—   |      |
| Number of deaths .....   | 2    |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births ....  | 2.61 |
| Deaths—  |      |
| Male : 204     Female : 177 ....   | 381  |
| Rate per 1,000 population—Crude .....  | 9.5  |
| Adjusted .....   | 10.4 |
| Excess of births over deaths .....   | 364  |
| Death rate from influenza per 1,000 of the population ....   | .29  |
| Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the population ....  | 1.59 |
| Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population ....                                  | .12  |
| Death rate from measles .....  | Nil  |
| Death rate from whooping cough ....  | Nil  |
| Percentage of total deaths occurring in Hospitals, etc. ....   | 62   |



## CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1959—

| Causes of Death                              | TOTAL | Under 1 yr | 1-4 yrs. | 5-14 yrs. | 15-24 yrs. | 25-44 yrs. | 45-64 yrs. | 65-74 yrs. | 75 yrs and over |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ....              | 5     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 3          | 2          | —               |
| Tuberculosis (Other Forms) .....             | —     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Syphilitic Disease ....                      | 1     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 1          | —          | —               |
| Diphtheria ....                              | —     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Whooping Cough ....                          | —     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Meningococcal Infection ....                 | 1     | 1          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ....                     | 1     | —          | 1        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Measles ....                                 | —     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases ....  | 2     | —          | 1        | —         | —          | —          | —          | 1          | —               |
| Malignant Neoplasms—                         |       |            |          |           |            |            |            |            |                 |
| Stomach ....                                 | 8     | —          | —        | —         | —          | 1          | 3          | 2          | 2               |
| Lung, bronchus ....                          | 10    | —          | —        | —         | 1          | —          | 6          | 1          | 2               |
| Breast ....                                  | 4     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 3          | —          | 1               |
| Uterus ....                                  | 6     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 1          | 4          | 1               |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .... | 33    | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 8          | 15         | 10              |
| Laukaemia ....                               | 3     | —          | —        | —         | 1          | —          | —          | 1          | 1               |
| Diabetes ....                                | 1     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | 1               |
| Vascular lesions of nervous System ....      | 51    | —          | —        | —         | —          | 1          | 15         | 10         | 25              |
| Coronary disease, angina ....                | 56    | —          | —        | —         | —          | 3          | 16         | 18         | 19              |
| Hypertension with heart disease ....         | 9     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 1          | 3          | 5               |
| Other heart diseases ....                    | 38    | —          | —        | —         | —          | 3          | 10         | 9          | 16              |
| Other circulatory diseases ....              | 23    | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 8          | 5          | 10              |
| Influenza ....                               | 12    | —          | —        | —         | —          | 1          | 6          | 1          | 4               |
| Pneumonia ....                               | 24    | 1          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 6          | 6          | 11              |
| Bronchitis ....                              | 19    | 1          | —        | 1         | —          | —          | 5          | 5          | 7               |
| Other diseases of respiratory system ....    | 2     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 2          | —          | —               |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....           | 4     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 3          | 1          | —               |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....      | 2     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | 1          | 1               |
| Nephritis and nephrosis ....                 | 3     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 2          | —          | 1               |
| Hypertension of prostate ....                | 6     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | 6               |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....         | 2     | —          | —        | —         | —          | 2          | —          | —          | —               |
| Congenital malformation ....                 | 5     | 5          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| Other diseases ....                          | 29    | 6          | —        | —         | —          | —          | 7          | 2          | 14              |
| Motor vehicle accidents ....                 | 3     | —          | —        | —         | 1          | 1          | 1          | —          | —               |
| All other accidents ....                     | 15    | —          | —        | 2         | —          | 2          | 4          | 3          | 4               |
| Suicide ....                                 | 3     | —          | —        | —         | —          | 1          | 1          | —          | 1               |
| Homicide and War ....                        | —     | —          | —        | —         | —          | —          | —          | —          | —               |
| TOTALS ....                                  | 381   | 14         | 2        | 3         | 3          | 15         | 112        | 90         | 142             |

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM—

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Rural District, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

| Disease                              | Whiston R.D. | England & Wales |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Influenza ....                       | .29          | .17             |
| Pneumonia ....                       | .58          | .60             |
| Bronchitis ....                      | .47          | .62             |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | .05          | .11             |
| Cancer of lung and bronchus ....     | .24          | .46             |
| Respiratory tuberculosis ....        | .07          | .08             |

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS—1959.

|                              | Under<br>1 yr. | 1—4<br>yrs. | 5—14<br>yrs. | 15—44<br>yrs. | 45—64<br>yrs. | 65—74<br>yrs. | 75 yrs.<br>and over | All<br>Ages |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Road traffic accidents ....  | —              | —           | —            | 2             | 1             | —             | —                   | 3           |
| Falls ....                   | —              | —           | —            | —             | 1             | 2             | 4                   | 7           |
| Works accidents ....         | —              | —           | —            | —             | 1             | —             | —                   | 1           |
| Drowning ....                | —              | —           | 2            | —             | —             | —             | —                   | 2           |
| Burns ....                   | —              | —           | —            | —             | —             | —             | —                   | —           |
| Other accidental deaths .... | —              | —           | —            | 2             | 2             | 1             | —                   | 5           |
| TOTALS ....                  | —              | —           | 2            | 4             | 5             | 3             | 4                   | 18          |

INFANT MORTALITY

| Cause of Death                           | Under<br>1 week | 2—3<br>weeks | 3—4<br>weeks | Total<br>under<br>4 weeks | 1—3<br>months | 3—6<br>months | 6—9<br>months | 9—12<br>months | Total<br>under<br>1 year |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Prematurity ....                         | 2               | —            | —            | 2                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | 2                        |
| Congenital Malformations ....            | 5               | —            | —            | 5                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | 5                        |
| Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis .... | 3               | —            | —            | 3                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | 3                        |
| Pneumonia ....                           | —               | —            | —            | —                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | —                        |
| Birth injuries ....                      | —               | —            | —            | —                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | —                        |
| Gastro enteritis ....                    | —               | —            | —            | —                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | —                        |
| Haemolytic diseases of newborn ....      | —               | —            | —            | —                         | —             | —             | —             | —              | —                        |
| Other diseases ....                      | —               | —            | —            | —                         | 3             | 1             | —             | —              | 4                        |
| TOTAL ....                               | 10              | —            | —            | 10                        | 3             | 1             | —             | —              | 14                       |

### VITAL STATISTICS

The following figures based on the Registrar General's 1959 birth and death returns, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Whiston Rural District.

|   | England and Wales                                    | Whiston R.D.                                     |
|---|--|--|
|   | Rate per 1,000<br>population mid-<br>1959—45,386,000 | Rate per 1,000<br>population mid-<br>1959—40,150 |
| <b>Births :</b>                                 |  |  |
| Live births ... ..                              | 16.5   | 19.1 (c)   |
| Still-births ... ..                             | 20.7   | 28.7 (a)   |
| <b>Deaths :</b>                                 |  |  |
| All causes ... ..                               | 11.6   | 10.4 (c)   |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) ... ..                 | 0.085  | .12  |
| Respiratory ... ..                              | 0.077  | .12  |
| Non-respiratory ... ..                          | 0.008  | Nil  |
| Cancer (all forms) ... ..                       | 2.14   | 1.59   |
| Lung and bronchus ... ..                        | 0.46   | .24  |
| Other cancer ... ..                             | 1.68   | 1.35   |
| Maternal mortality (total) ..                   | 0.38 (a)   | 2.61 (a)   |
| Maternal causes<br>(excluding abortion) ...     | 0.32 (a)   | 2.61 (a)   |
| Due to abortion ... ..                          | 0.06 (a)   | Nil  |
| Infant mortality ... ..                         | 22.0 (b)   | 18.8 (b)   |
| Neo-natal mortality ... ..                      | 15.8 (b)   | 13.4 (b)   |
| <b>Notifications (Corrected) :</b>              |  |  |
| Typhoid Fever ... ..                            | 0.003  | Nil  |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..                        | 0.008  | 0.024  |
| Meningococcal Infection ...                     | 0.016  | Nil  |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                            | 1.055  | 0.697  |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                           | 0.732  | 0.672  |
| Diphtheria ... ..                               | 0.002  | Nil  |
| Erysipelas ... ..                               | 0.071  | 0.024  |
| Smallpox ... ..                                 | 0.000  | Nil  |
| Measles ... ..                                  | 11.880   | 10.136   |
| Acute Pneumonia<br>(Primary and influenzal) ... | 0.590  | 0.473  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..                      | 0.022  | 0.074  |
| Acute Encephalitis ... ..                       | 0.006  | Nil  |
| Dysentery ... ..                                | 0.784  | 0.797  |
| Food Poisoning ... ..                           | 0.220  | 0.821  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..                        | 0.236  | 1.170  |
| Tuberculosis—                                   |  |  |
| Respiratory ... ..                              | 0.540  | 0.597  |
| Meninges and C.N.S. ...                         | 0.005  | Nil  |
| Other ... ..                                    | 0.058  | 0.099  |

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) Adjusted rate



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

## (i) Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

| Diseases                        | Total cases<br>Notified | Cases<br>admitted to<br>Hospital | Total<br>Deaths |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Diphtheria ....                 | —                       | —                                | —               |
| Scarlet Fever ....              | 28                      | 5                                | —               |
| Paratyphoid ....                | 1                       | 1                                | —               |
| Dysentery ....                  | 32                      | 3                                | —               |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ....          | 47                      | 47                               | —               |
| Acute Pneumonia ....            | 19                      | 10                               | 5               |
| Erysipelas ....                 | 1                       | 1                                | —               |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....      | —                       | —                                | —               |
| Enteric Fever ....              | —                       | —                                | —               |
| Meningococcal Infection ....    | —                       | —                                | —               |
| Measles ....                    | 407                     | 3                                | —               |
| Whooping Cough ....             | 27                      | 2                                | —               |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ....        | 3                       | 3                                | 1               |
| Acute Polioencephalitis ....    | —                       | —                                | —               |
| Food Poisoning ....             | 33                      | 33                               | —               |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ....     | 24                      | 13                               | 5               |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .... | 4                       | 4                                | —               |

## (ii) Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year—1959

## AGE PERIOD — YEARS

| Notifiable Diseases          | Total Cases | 0— | 1— | 2— | 3— | 4— | 5—  | 10— | 15— | 25 and over |
|------------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Scarlet Fever ....           | 28          | —  | —  | 1  | 6  | 4  | 15  | 1   | 1   | —           |
| Whooping Cough ....          | 27          | 2  | 2  | 3  | 5  | 3  | 11  | 1   | —   | —           |
| Acute Poliomyelitis          |             |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |             |
| (Paralytic) ....             | 3           | —  | 1  | 2  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —           |
| (Non Paralytic) ....         | —           | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —           |
| Measles ....                 | 407         | 17 | 37 | 50 | 52 | 50 | 192 | 6   | 3   | —           |
| Diphtheria ....              | —           | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —           |
| Dysentery ...                | 32          | —  | 1  | 1  | 3  | 5  | 12  | 4   | 2   | 4           |
| Meningococcal Infection .... | —           | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —           |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....   | —           | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —           |
| TOTALS ...                   | 497         | 19 | 41 | 57 | 66 | 62 | 230 | 12  | 6   | 4           |



## AGE PERIOD — YEARS

|  | Total<br>Cases | 0—       | 5—       | 15—       | 45—       | 65 and<br>over |
|--|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Acute Pneumonia (Primary<br>and Influenzal) .... | 19             | 1        | 2        | 7         | 6         | 3              |
| Smallpox ....                                    | —              | —        | —        | —         | —         | —              |
| Acute Encephalitis                               |                |          |          |           |           |                |
| Infective ....                                   | —              | —        | —        | —         | —         | —              |
| Post Infectious ....                             | —              | —        | —        | —         | —         | —              |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever ....                    | —              | —        | —        | —         | —         | —              |
| Paratyphoid Fever ....                           | 1              | —        | —        | —         | —         | 1              |
| Erysipelas ...                                   | 1              | —        | —        | —         | 1         | —              |
| Food Poisoning ....                              | 33             | —        | 1        | 6         | 6         | 20             |
| Tuberculosis Respiratory ...                     | 24             | —        | —        | 16        | 6         | 2              |
| Meninges and C.N.S. ....                         | —              | —        | —        | —         | —         | —              |
| Other ....                                       | 4              | 1        | 1        | 2         | —         | —              |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ....                           | 47             | —        | —        | 47        | —         | —              |
| <b>TOTALS</b> ....                               | <b>129</b>     | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>78</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>26</b>      |

Total number of cases notified (all ages) — 626

**TUBERCULOSIS**

Details of cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1959 will be found in the following table :—

| AGE PERIODS<br>(Years) | NEW CASES |           |                   |          | DEATHS    |          |                   |          |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|                        | Pulmonary |           | Non-<br>Pulmonary |          | Pulmonary |          | Non-<br>Pulmonary |          |
|                        | M         | F         | M                 | F        | M         | F        | M                 | F        |
| Under 1 year ...       | —         | —         | —                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 1—4 ....               | —         | —         | 1                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 5—9 ....               | —         | —         | —                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 10—14 ....             | —         | —         | 1                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 15—19 ....             | 1         | 1         | —                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 20—24 ....             | 2         | 1         | 1                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 25—34 ....             | 1         | 3         | —                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 35—44 ....             | 4         | 4         | 1                 | —        | —         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 45—54 ....             | 3         | 1         | —                 | —        | 2         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 55—64 ....             | 2         | —         | —                 | —        | 1         | —        | —                 | —        |
| 65 and over ...        | —         | 1         | —                 | —        | 2         | —        | —                 | —        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> ...      | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>4</b>          | <b>—</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>—</b> | <b>—</b>          | <b>—</b> |

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies of the district are obtained from three main sources :

|                        |   |                      |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Liverpool Corporation  | — | Upland surface water |
| St. Helens Corporation | — | Deep wells           |
| Widnes Corporation     | — | Deep wells           |

The development of the district resulted in extensions of the water mains throughout the district as follows :—

|                       |   |                     |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Liverpool Corporation | — | 200 yds. of 18 in.  |
|                       |   | 783 yds. of 9 in.   |
|                       |   | 1,492 yds. of 6 in. |
|                       |   | 8 yds. of 5 in.     |
|                       |   | 6,167 yds. of 4 in. |
|                       |   | 1,053 yds. of 3 in. |

|                        |   |                     |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| St. Helens Corporation | — | 242 yds. of 6 in.   |
|                        |   | 1,237 yds. of 4 in. |
|                        |   | 162 yds. of 3 in.   |
|                        |   | 40 yds. of 1 in.    |

|                    |      |                   |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| Widnes Corporation | .... | 274 yds. of 4 in. |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|

Houses new connected to public mains :—

|                   |   |              |     |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----|
| Existing houses : | 3 | New houses : | 449 |
|-------------------|---|--------------|-----|

The overall supply at the end of the year from public mains was to 11,584 houses serving an estimated population of 42,098, whilst 6 dwelling-houses received their supply from standpipes connected to the public main and 1 dwellinghouse still receives its supply from a private source.

The continued presence of an excessive amount of iron in the supply of water to the Parish of Knowsley led to further complaints and the samples taken indicated that this iron is inherent in the water as it leaves the bore hole. Efforts are being made to effect a satisfactory solution in the immediate future.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New works of sewerage and sewage disposal have been undertaken in the Parish of Knowsley where a new length of sewer has been laid and additional sludge beds and a pumping station have been constructed. 466 new houses built in the Rural District were connected to the sewage system during the year and 5 to approved type septic tanks. The number of privy middens still in use continues to fall, a further 4 being converted during the year to bring the total down to 83. Action has been instituted to carry out a vigorous campaign to accelerate the conversion of these middens either in the first place to removable pails or more satisfactorily to water closets. In addition to their obvious nuisance they present a most objectionable task to the staff of the Cleansing Department.

## CLEAN AIR.

Although the Rural District is not included in the so-called "black areas" it is contiguous with such areas both to the east and to the west. The prevailing winds have no regard for Local Government boundaries and consequently some pollution from adjoining areas is deposited, together with that which is produced within the Rural District. In order to provide some

information on the degree of pollution present, three Schools within the area *i.e.*, Notre Dame High School for Girls, Longview Secondary Modern School and Whiston Secondary Modern Boys' School, were asked to co-operate by operating volumetric apparatus in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The work is undertaken by the senior students under the supervision of the teaching staff and the apparatus was provided by the Rural District Council. By the end of the year each of the Schools were co-operating fully and considerable interest was being shown. By this method it is hoped that the propaganda value of the scheme will be just as valuable as the statistical information obtained. Concurrently, the Health Department are collating all information received together with meteorological information from Speke Airport.

Some nuisance has continued to arise from spoil banks, but most of such sources are now under some degree of control either by fine water spray or blinding with limestone dust or industrial waste. Some improvement has resulted in the industrial plant within the area including a large scale conversion from manual to mechanical stoking by one Colliery and by the use of methane gas which is first extracted from the workings as a safety measure and later used to fire several Lancashire boilers.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

The work of the full-time Rodent Operator continued and the following table indicates the number of inspections carried out.

|  | TYPE OF PROPERTY   |              |                   |
|--|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
|  | Non-agricultural   |              | Agricul-<br>tural |
|  | Dwelling<br>houses | All<br>Other |                   |
| No. of properties in district ....                                   | 11,584             | 772          | 299               |
| No. of properties inspected ....                                     | 155                | 46           | 50                |
| Total inspections carried out ....                                   | 450                | 145          | 399               |
| No. of properties inspected which were<br>found to be infested by :— |                    |              |                   |
| Rats — major ....  | —                  | —            | 1                 |
| minor ....   | 106                | 28           | 48                |
| Mice — major ....  | —                  | —            | —                 |
| minor ....   | 23                 | 15           | 1                 |
| No. of infested properties treated ....                              | 129                | 43           | 50                |
| Total treatments carried out....                                     | 155                | 50           | 112               |

Efforts were made to consolidate and increase the number of contracts for the treatment of agricultural premises which were handed over by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the previous year. The value of this work cannot be emphasised too much as it is only by constant treatment that the problem can be kept under control. The bi-annual treatment of baiting and poisoning of the sewers was again carried out thereby reducing the number of rats in the district and also providing valuable information as to those areas where infestations may occur. In addition infestations of wasps, ants and various types of flies were dealt with by the Department. Many of these complaints did arise in areas where the spread of housing has narrowed the gap between the town and the farms, and consequently the presence of flies which can be taken as a normal feature of a farm may become a nuisance in domestic premises.



## SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the Rural District is 30 and whilst the majority are satisfactory in most respects some fall short by reason of inadequate sanitary accommodation—2, inadequate washing and drinking facilities—6.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only offensive trade which exists in the district is that of a tripe boiler. Routine inspections show that the premises are kept in a satisfactory manner.

## HOUSING.

471 houses were erected during the year and 36 houses demolished as unfit for human habitation. The programme of demolition decided by the Council in 1954 is now nearing completion.

During the year 1,576 visits were made to 1,074 premises in connection with the Public Health and Housing Acts. 289 defects or nuisances were discovered and 218 abated. 171 informal notices were served and 1 statutory notice.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

These are concentrated on six sites. The main site comprises approximately 100 caravans and enjoys a high standard of amenities including mains water supply, proper drainage facilities and communal sanitary blocks which also include bathing facilities. Regular inspections are made during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year, 338 visits were made to food premises. 79 minor contraventions were found to exist and 84 were abated during the year (5 of these were carried over from 1958). 21 informal notices were served and 18 were complied with. The types of food businesses in the district are as follows :—

|   |      |      |    |
|---|------|------|----|
| General grocers and provision dealers   | .... | .... | 77 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those<br>selling wet fish, game, etc.) | .... | .... | 14 |
| Meat shops  | .... | .... | 14 |
| Bakers and/or confectioners   | .... | .... | 7  |
| Fried fish shops  | .... | .... | 8  |
| Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery,<br>minerals, ice-cream, etc.        | .... | .... | 24 |
| Licensed premises, clubs, canteens,<br>restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.   | .... | .... | 45 |
| Others  | .... | .... | 6  |

Approximately 115 visits were made in connection with the new broiler packing factory which from its inauguration at the beginning of the year expanded rapidly, and from 5,000 birds per week at the outset the production has increased sixfold.

The premises are divided into the broiler houses which contain approximately 70,000 chickens from day old to 10/12 weeks, the slaughtering hall and packing department.



In the broiler houses, the floors are covered with wood shavings to a depth of 3 inches and all natural lighting is excluded, the only lighting is from diffused red electric bulbs. The temperature is controlled at from 90—95° F. at day old, decreasing weekly by 5° F until the house temperature is at 65—70° F. Ventilation is at the rate of two air changes per hour at day old, increasing to 26—30 per hour at killing stage and is achieved by extraction fans.

The birds are fed on specially prepared pellets which consist of a mixture of oats, barley, peas and fish meal, vitamins and anti-biotics, both food and water being available at all times, no bird having to walk more than 5 ft. for food and 10 ft. for water in any direction in the broiler house and working on the percentage of 30 food funnels and one 4 ft. 6 ins. water trough per thousand birds.

On attaining the required weight and age the birds are crated and transferred to the slaughterhouse, the broiler house is then cleansed and fumigated by mixing 5 lbs. of permanganate of potash with one gallon pure formalin before another batch is received.

The slaughtering and dressing processes are carried out in the same building, although it is the proprietor's intention to erect a separate packing station in the near future. The birds are first suspended on metal wire shackles attached to a continuously moving conveyor for a short time and on entering the building are bled by an incision into the neck. After this the birds pass through a covered tunnel and into a tank where turbulent water is maintained at a temperature of 128t F. This loosens the feathers follicles and makes the process of defeathering much easier. The defeathering is achieved by mechanically operated flails and is followed by evisceration (if required by the purchaser) and immersion in water containing 5 p.p.m. chlorine. This reduces the body temperature and allows for crating and either dispatch or deep freeze.

The following is the record of the total kill and number of birds condemned during 1959.

138,860 birds were killed and processed  
                   298 were condemned (0.21%)  
                   2,887 turkeys were also killed and processed.

## **SAMPLING OF MILK AND ICE CREAM.**

Details of Licensing : There are 18 dairies in the Rural District and 21 shops selling milk. The number of dealers' licences issued during the year in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" milk was 37, "Pasteurised" 35 and "Sterilised" 41. 11 samples of "Pasteurised" milk were submitted to the Laboratory for the Phosphatase test and 5 samples of "Sterilised" milk for the Turbidity test. All these samples were satisfactory.

The number of food premises registered for the sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 70. During the year 5 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Laboratory for examination and these proved to be satisfactory.

## **SHOPS.**

28 inspections of shops under the Shops Act, 1950 were made during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

The new licensed Slaughterhouse at Annexe Farm came into operation and the following table shows the statistics.

|  |      |      |      |      |      | <i>Sheep and<br/>Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Number killed  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 24                         | 15          |
| Number inspected   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 24                         | 15          |
| <b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>                                 |      |      |      |      |      |                            |             |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | —                          | 1           |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was<br>condemned                                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | —                          | 2           |
| % of number inspected affected with diseases<br>other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | —                          | 20%         |
| <b>Tuberculosis only :</b>   |      |      |      |      |      |                            |             |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was<br>condemned                                 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | —                          | 2           |
| % of number inspected affected with<br>Tuberculosis                                    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | —                          | 13.2%       |

The inspection and examination of food stocks during the year resulted in the condemnation of the following :—

| <i>Type of Food</i>     | <i>Total quantity of stock<br/>or consignment exam-<br/>ined and found unfit for<br/>human consumption</i> |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Canned</i>           |  |
| Meat                    | 102 lbs.   |
| Fruit                   | 13½ lbs.   |
| Vegetables              | 19 lbs.  |
| Fish                    | 4½ lbs.  |
| Milk (equivalent pints) | 11 lbs.  |
| Soup                    | 6 lbs.   |
| Rice Pudding            | 2 lbs.   |

The contaminated food was disposed of either by incineration or by controlled tipping.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### Refuse Collection :

This service has been maintained on a weekly basis with the exception of the periods after holidays and for a spell during the summer months when the number of men absent due to sickness reached an unusually high percentage (12.3% during the month of August). The main bulk of the refuse was collected by the Dennis "Paxit" vehicles each of which has had a complete overhaul and has been cleansed and painted by the staff of the Maintenance Department. In the outlying areas of the rural district where domestic refuse and pail closet contents require collection, the two Dennis side loaders have operated (the replacement of both these vehicles is to be considered in the 1960/61 estimates). In addition, trade refuse and refuse collection from Hospitals and Schools has received regular attention. Some difficulty has been experienced by some householders using dustbins either broken or without handles or of abnormal size. Efforts are being made to ensure that only regulation type bins are used.

### **Refuse Disposal :**

It is satisfying to report that the Whiston tip has been operated throughout the second half of the year with the minimum of nuisance, in fact the Department did not receive any complaints from residents in the vicinity in spite of the prolonged hot summer. In general, the whole of the refuse disposal has shown a marked improvement, a development made possible by the Weatherill loading shovel which was brought into operation in June. At this stage it may be worth considering a systematic approach towards the reclamation of the land at present being used for tipping purposes. It should be possible to recover, level and seed out reasonably sized areas to provide recreational space for the tenants of the nearby houses and also reduce the present wide expanse of the tip.

### **Employees :**

The decision of the Council to increase the rate of pay of the leading loaders had a marked effect upon the efficiency of the various teams, each leading loader being more ready to accept responsibility. There is, however, an urgent need to provide facilities for the taking of meals and for the storage and drying of clothing in the depot ; this is to be considered in the general scheme of alterations to the depot ; a report on which is in the course of preparation.

### **GENERAL**

Efforts have and are being made to increase the efficiency of each vehicle and its team so as to absorb so far as is possible the steady increase in the number of new houses being built.

Vehicle maintenance has been re-organised and each driver made responsible for routine measures with specialised work being dealt with by a local garage.

The new vehicles to be introduced should replace two petrol engines with diesel and further standardise fleet running and maintenance.

The amount of salvage collected was relatively small but it is hoped to increase this by the overhaul and repair of the trailers.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises   | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of        |                    |                       |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|  |                          | Inspec-<br>tions | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>pr'cuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....                    | —                        | —                | —                  | —                     |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ....                  | 38                       | 23               | —                  | —                     |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .... | —                        | —                | —                  | —                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ....  | <b>38</b>                | <b>23</b>        | <b>—</b>           | <b>—</b>              |

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars  | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
|  | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred          |                   |   |
|  |   |          | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....   | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ....  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)  |   |          |                   |                   |   |
| (a) Insufficient ....  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ....   | 1   | 1        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ....  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .... | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| TOTAL ....   | 1   | 1        | —                 | —                 | —   |

### OUTWORK.

During the year notification was received of four outworkers employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel.









